

Application No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended, and new claims 28-29 have been added. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-18 and 20-29 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,538,666 B1 to Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In the system of Ozawa et al., the player enters spoken words from a predetermined vocabulary through a microphone 60 to cause the character to perform given actions. (Ozawa et al., col. 11, lines 58-64). A speech recognition part recognizes the speech entered by a player into a microphone 60. If the recognized speech does not match the words that are supposed to be input into the system, then a message is displayed for the player that contains a proper word to be inputted at that time. (Ozawa et al., col. 2, lines 38-63). Furthermore, the word to be currently inputted is displayed in a color different from the remaining part of the message sentence, so that the user can easily recognize the word to be inputted. (Ozawa et al., col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 12). Thus, in the displayed message sentences, the words expected as inputs from the microphone 60 (i.e., the words in dictionary RAM 54) and the remaining part are displayed in different colors so that the player can easily know the words that can be used as inputs. (Ozawa et al., col. 16, lines 63-66).

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Therefore, in Ozawa et al. the use of different color words in the displayed message is used to assist the player in choosing the correct word to speak into the microphone 60.

Ozawa et al. also states the following:

"Next, when some words in the message data coincide with words recorded in the dictionary RAM 54, the CPU 11 corrects the color data of the message data so that the matching words are displayed in a different color from the remaining part of the message sentences (step S350)."

(Ozawa et al., col. 16, lines 48-52).

The Examiner apparently considers Ozawa et al. to disclose Applicants' claimed invention in that a color of words in Ozawa et al.'s displayed message changes after it is determined that some words in the message coincide with words recorded in the dictionary RAM 54. Thus, the Examiner apparently considers Ozawa et al.'s determination that some words in the message coincide with words recorded in the dictionary RAM 54 to correspond to Applicants' recited "an event or a condition occurs". In other words, the Examiner may consider the "condition" in Ozawa et al. to be the determination that some words in the message coincide with words recorded in the dictionary RAM 54.

Applicants disagree with this analysis and have amended independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 to further clarify the differences between Applicants' claims and Ozawa et al. Specifically, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that a color of words of a category changes "in response to, and to indicate, experiences of a character in a scenario of a program executed by the entertainment apparatus". This amendment is supported by Applicants' specification at, for example: page 2, line 19 through page 4, line 6; page 26, line 26 through page 29, line 5; and throughout the specification.

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Applicants' feature of changing the color of words of a category in response to, and to indicate, the experiences of the character in the scenario of the program is quite different than Ozawa et al.'s use of different color words in the displayed message for assisting the player in choosing the correct word to speak into the microphone 60. That is, in Ozawa et al. the color of a word does not indicate the experiences of a character, but rather indicates whether the word coincides with words recorded in the dictionary RAM 54.

Therefore, the rejections of amended independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 must be withdrawn. Furthermore, the rejections of claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-18 and 20-27 must also be withdrawn for at least these same reasons due to their dependency on their respective independent claims.

With respect to Applicants' dependent claims 20-27, the Examiner asserts that Ozawa et al.'s column 4, lines 34-41 discloses the limitations of these claims. However, the cited language simply does not disclose anything about a place category, a person category, or a character, as is recited in these claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of dependent claims 20-27 must be withdrawn because the cited portion of Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose or teach the subject matter of these claims.

New Claims 28-29

Applicants have added new independent claims 28 and 29. These new claims incorporate the limitations of Applicants' claims 1 and 20 and claims 1 and 21, respectively. Therefore, these claims are allowable over Ozawa et al. for the same reasons provided above for Applicants' dependent claims 20-27. Namely, Ozawa et al.'s column 4, lines 34-41 simply does not disclose or teach the subject matter of these claims.

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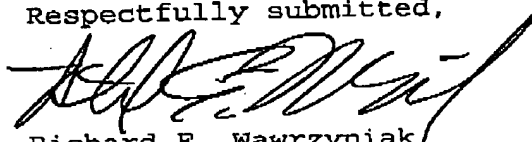
Fees Believed to be Due

Fees were previously paid in this application for a total of 26 claims with 4 claims being independent claims. The above amendment has resulted in there now being a total of 28 claims with 6 claims being independent claims. As such, a fee is now due for 2 extra total claims and 2 extra independent claims. A Fee Transmittal is included herewith to cover these fees.

C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated

7/6/04

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